

Technology Deployment Initiatives and Partnership Program
Request for Funding
FY 2001

FHWA Strategic Goal Area: Productivity, Environment

Project Title: Highway Revegetation Seeding Guide

Problem Statement: Revegetation of areas disturbed by highway construction is a fundamental part of successful erosion control. The information necessary to efficiently select appropriate native species for revegetation along road corridors is scattered throughout numerous different documents and agencies, leading to inefficient and inconsistent selection of species for revegetation. There is a need to have all the information pertinent to selecting commercially available species for revegetation compiled into a single source, preferably a searchable database. The existing Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) database VegSpec is too large and unwieldy to serve this focused purpose, nor does it distinguish commercially available species (there is no point in specifying species for revegetation that are not commercially available, or viable for collection).

Proposal: To initiate a partnership with one of more members of the Natural Resource Conservation Service to use their data and expertise in preparing a seeding guide for use in the four states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. This seed guide will identify grass, forb, and shrub species native to each ecozone within the four states that are either commercially available or known to be feasible for collection and reproduction.

Benefits: First, to improve our (WFLHD) ability to identify and use appropriate native species in revegetating areas disturbed by highway construction. Further, this proposal would be a substantive contribution to the goals of the Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee (currently Plant Conservation Alliance), of which FHWA is a co-signers. When finalized, the results of this partnership can also be shared with FHWA Federal-aid Division offices, State DOT's, and other agencies also involved in revegetation of roads and highways. Consolidation and use of this information by different government agencies could have the added benefit of stabilizing the demand base so that commercial seed growers have a somewhat clearer view of what species will be in demand in future years.

Resources/Cost: \$25,000

Duration: One year, spanning FY 2001-02. Actual completion of the final product is expected to be about March 2002).

Organization/Method: The champion will select a qualified individual or team to evaluate and compile existing information on grass, forb, and shrub species that are native to ecozones of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington (Alaska currently has a different set of circumstances, and will be handled separately). The champion will then work with this individual or team through the development of a guidebook and electronic database for the seeding guide. The individual will likely be an employee of another agency (such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service) with whom a reimbursable agreement can be arranged.

Submitter:

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Champion:

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